

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1904.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Farnborough Urban District Council.

TOWN HALL,
FARNBOROUGH,
HANTS.

GENTLEMEN,

February 8th, 1905.

I have the honour to present you with my report on the health of your district during 1904.

I have corrected the vital statistics of the district for the last ten years as will be seen by the tables at the end of the report. This accounts for the difference between the figures given in my report for 1903 and those given in this report.

The area of the district is 2,331 acres.

The total population of the district estimated to the middle of 1904 is 12,901.

The civilian population estimated to the middle of 1904 is 7,445.

The total death rate is 7·6 per 1,000 of the population living as against 8·5 per 1,000 in 1903.

The civilian death-rate is 9·8 per 1,000 as against 11·6 per 1,000 in 1903.

The death-rate for England and Wales is 16·2 per 1,000 as against 15·4 per 1,000 in 1903.

The total birth-rate is 20·7 per 1,000 as against 21·4 per 1,000 in 1903.

The civilian birth-rate is 27·1 per 1,000 as against 27·8 per 1,000 in 1903.

The birth-rate for England and Wales is 27·9 per 1,000 as against 28·4 per 1,000 in 1903.

The District is partly Urban, partly Rural, and contains the North Camp. It is triangular in shape, bounded on the East by the river Blackwater, which joins the Cove Brook on the North, forming the apex of the triangle; the base of the triangle is a line drawn from the bridge over the Blackwater near the North Camp Station (S.E.R.) to a point a few yards from where the Portsmouth Road crosses the Basingstoke Canal.

The altitude above sea level varies from 273 feet near the Queen's Hotel, to 202 feet in the apex of the triangle at the junction of the Cove Brook and river Blackwater.

There is a general slope from the highest point towards the North and East.

The soil consists of about 30 feet of sandy gravel overlying the Bagshot sands, the chalk being at a depth of about 350 feet.

In the low-lying portions of the district the subsoil water is within two or three feet of the surface; in the higher portions it is at a depth of about 30 feet.

The Population may be conveniently divided into a military portion, stationed in the North Camp, and a civilian portion.

There is no special industry carried on in the district, the working classes consisting mainly of labourers, artisans, and soldiers.

Sixty-nine new houses have been built and inhabited during the year, and three pulled down, making a total of 1,429, exclusive of North Camp. This gives 5·2 persons per house as against 5·2 in 1903 and 4·9 at the census of 1901.

The increase in population gives 5·5 persons per acre, as against 5·3 in 1903.

The water supply of the district is derived partly from shallow wells, and partly from the Water Supply Frimley and Farnborough Water Company.

There was a deficient supply of water during the summer months as in 1903 ; I reported this to the Council who took the matter up with the result that the Water Company laid a larger main up the Queen's Road, across the Alexandra Road, to the top of Netley Street.

One hundred and sixty-nine houses have been connected with the Company's mains during the year. The number of houses still unconnected is 176, as against 279 last year.

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 100, eight less than in 1903.

Deaths.

The correction made for deaths of non-residents occurring in the district, and deaths of residents occurring beyond the district brings the number to 98, or eight less than in 1903.

Twenty-five of the deaths belong to North Camp, and seventy-three to Farnborough.

In 1903 the number for Farnborough was eighty-three.

The total death-rate is 7·6 per 1,000, and the civilian death-rate is 9·8 per 1,000.

The death-rate for England and Wales is 16·2 per 1,000, and for Rural England and Wales is 15·3 per 1,000. The civilian death-rate in 1903 was 11·9 per 1,000.

The number of deaths under one year was 32, thirteen of these were in North Camp. The rate for the whole district is 119·4 per 1,000 births, and for the civilian portion of the district 94·06. The figures in 1903 were 119·8 and 126·2 respectively. The rate for England and Wales is 146 per 1,000 births, and for Rural England and Wales 125 per 1,000 births.

The Zymotic death-rate for the whole district is 0·4 per 1,000 living, and for the civilian portion 0·6 per 1,000 living. The rate for England and Wales is 1·94, and for Rural England and Wales 1·28 per 1,000.

Among the civilian population there were two deaths from whooping cough, two from diphtheria, and one from enteric fever.

Among the civilian population there were seven deaths from phthisis and six from cancer.

Twenty-four cases of infectious disease have been notified during the year.

Infectious Disease.

Notifications received during the last three years :—

	1904	1903	1902
Small Pox	0	0	4
Diphtheria	7	13	11
Membranous Croup	0	0	0
Erysipelas	9	3	6
Scarlet Fever	6	21	13
Enteric Fever	2	3	2
Chicken Pox	0	0	30
	<hr/> 24	<hr/> 40	<hr/> 66

Notifications among the civilian population number 17 in 1904, 22 in 1903, and 22 in 1902 without chicken pox.

Twenty-six samples of water have been analysed and ten of sewage effluent.

Analyses.

Fifteen wells have been condemned and closed.

The house accommodation for the working class is inadequate; this gives rise to a certain amount of overcrowding; a number of houses have been found unfit for human habitation and dealt with.

House Accommodation.

The general sewerage and drainage of the district is good, although there are still a number of water closets without flushing cisterns.

Sewerage.

Two new filter beds have been erected during the year, and the new installation of Liquefaction Tanks and filter beds has been completed.

A private street off the Rectory Road in which building operations are going on is not connected with the sewer and should receive attention.

Another street at the back of the Market Place, Lynchford Road, is also in a very bad state of repair, and requires attention.

House refuse is collected by the Council's carts, which call at every house in the district once a week, and conveyed to suitable tips.

House Refuse.

Manure and stable refuse is removed by the occupiers.

I would again suggest to the Council that they make arrangements for the removal of kitchen refuse which is now done by private individuals.

There are no common Lodging Houses in the district.

Lodging Houses, &c.

There are now a number of Tenement Lodging Houses in the District, which in many cases are improperly kept, I hope within a short time to frame a set of bye-laws dealing with these, for approval by the Council. I also intend framing a set of bye-laws to deal with Vans, Tents and Sheds in the district.

There are no new slaughter houses, and the existing ones are in good order ; two of them, however, are only wooden buildings.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 6 cowsheds and 20 milkshops in the district. They have all been inspected.

Dairies, &c.

One new cowshed has been erected in place of a wooden structure.

There are 11 bakehouses in the district. It would be an advantage if some better method of coaling the oven could be enforced so that fuel need not be conveyed through the bakehouse.

Bakehouses.

There are now no underground bakehouses.

The sanitary arrangements of all the factories are in good order.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 34 workshops, 12 domestic workshops, and 7 outworkers. The Army Needlework Association declined to supply a list of outworkers in the district, therefore I am unable to supply them with any information regarding infectious disease among their outworkers.

There are no offensive trades in the district.

Offensive Trades.

The Sanitary Inspector's report deals fully with nuisances.

Nuisances.

The peculiar characteristics of the houses in the district, many of which are built on one plan, provides for efficient isolation on the premises.

Arrangements have been made with Aldershot and Frimley Isolation Hospitals to take infectious cases.

Disinfection is carried out by means of an Alformant lamp and Formalin.

Blankets, &c., are sent to the Aldershot steam disinfector when necessary.

The year 1904 has been a particularly healthy one throughout the district, showing a smaller number of notifications of infectious disease, and a smaller death-rate than in the three years previous to it.

The tables of statistics are appended to the report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. CROFT WATTS,

M.D., C.M., F.R.C.S.E., D.P.H., LOND.

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, FOR 1904.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Farnborough Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the Annual Report of the work carried out in your Health Department during the year ending December 31st, 1904.

Periodical and systematic inspections of the district have been made, and in all cases where nuisances or insanitary and structural defects were found, preliminary notices were served, most of which were complied with, as will be seen from the comparatively small number of statutory notices. It is also worthy of note that in only a few instances was it necessary to resort to legal proceedings.

Butchers' shops, slaughter houses, cowsheds, dairies and milkshops and all places where food was exposed or in preparation for sale for the food of man have been frequently inspected.

On reference to particulars given later in this report, it will be observed that a considerable amount of extra work has been entailed by the completion of your new sewerage scheme, providing for the effectual drainage of North Farnborough, which was hitherto honeycombed with cesspools and studded with offensive privies.

I am, however, pleased to state that the owners of property have readily availed themselves of the opportunity of connecting with the sewers, and also to report that cesspools and privies are almost a thing of the past.

I would respectfully draw the attention of the Council to the necessity of making bye-laws for regulating van-dwellers within the district, a number of whom are in the habit of using building plots adjoining occupied dwelling houses. In two instances the occupants take up employment in the district for about four months during the year. No sanitary accommodation exists, and their horses are usually tethered to the vans for a portion of each day. Van-dwellers.

The vans are usually occupied by two adults and several children; here again a difficulty arises, for although Section 9 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1885, gives power to deal with overcrowding, it does not give a standard of cubic space, and as 300 cubic feet free air space is required in an ordinary dwelling house for each adult (taking the common lodging house minimum), it is difficult to know how to define overcrowding in a van.

In dwelling houses, sanitary arrangements, water supply and air space have to be provided, but these Van Dwellers quietly ignore all attempts to secure the provision of such.

The general habits of the occupiers also leave much to be desired.

In two instances the vans had remained occupied on one site for several years. These have now been vacated owing to statutory notices having been served to provide sanitary conveniences and water supply. I fear however, this is only temporary, for now that the period allowed by statute for instituting legal proceedings has expired, the people may return at any time, making it imperative upon you to carry out the same useless procedure as heretofore.

One hundred and thirty-nine preliminary notices have been served for the abatement of 433 nuisances, and of these 110 were complied with without further notice; six are at present in hand. Notices served.

23 statutory notices were served; of these

- 14 related to abatement of nuisances,
- 5 to provide sufficient water closets,
- 3 to provide drains to houses,
- 1 to provide supply of water,

21 of which were complied with without further proceedings being taken.

Sixteen complaints were received and immediately attended to, most of which were requests for the cleansing of cesspools and the removal of house refuse. In three cases no nuisances injurious to health existed. Complaints.

SUMMARY OF ROUTINE WORK.

Nuisances detected	...	...	...	...	420
Nuisances reported by residents	...	...	...	...	13
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	420
Nuisances in hand	...	...	...	...	13
Drains tested with water	...	...	...	...	225
House drains reconstructed or amended and connected to sewers	...	...	...	...	225
Privies abolished and water closets substituted	...	...	...	...	151
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	51
Dilapidated closets taken down and rebuilt	...	...	...	...	31
Drains found choked and subsequently disinfected and amended	...	...	...	...	45
Drains ventilated	...	...	...	...	8
Drains intercepted	...	...	...	...	4
Closets provided with flushing apparatus	...	...	...	...	44
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	13
New pans fixed to water closets	...	...	...	...	8
Filthy W.C. pans cleansed	...	...	...	...	7
Houses provided with stoneware slop sinks	...	...	...	...	42
Galvanized iron dust bins provided	...	...	...	...	42
Houses cleansed and whitewashed throughout	...	...	...	...	17
Rooms cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	...	...	15
Rooms cleansed and whitewashed after infectious disease	...	...	...	...	11
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	12
Filthy sculleries limewashed	...	...	...	...	9
Back yards paved	...	...	...	...	26
Overcrowding in houses abated	...	...	...	...	14
Houses closed as unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	18
Houses made fit for habitation	...	...	...	...	5
House roofs and eaves' spouts repaired	...	...	...	...	27
Defective brick floors repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Defective wood floors relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	5
W.C. floors repaired	...	...	...	...	4
W.C's. provided with means of light and ventilation	...	...	...	...	4
Dilapidated stables taken down, rebuilt, paved and drained	...	...	...	...	4
Dilapidated stables demolished	...	...	...	...	2
Pig sties abolished	...	...	...	...	4
Poultry houses adjoining dwelling houses removed	...	...	...	...	6
Accumulations of manure and offensive refuse removed	...	...	...	...	16
Manure pits provided under bye-laws	...	...	...	...	6
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance removed	...	...	...	...	11
Stables repaved and drained	...	...	...	...	9
Stable drains repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	...	6
Cesspool repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Cellar occupied as a dwelling	...	...	...	...	1
Surface water drains provided	...	...	...	...	4
Dilapidated wash-houses rebuilt	...	...	...	...	9
Damp external walls rendered impervious	...	...	...	...	4
Notices served on occupiers to cleanse floors and woodwork	...	...	...	...	5
Nuisances caused by van-dwellers	...	...	...	...	3
School drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	2
School drains amended	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughter houses, Cowsheds and Milkshops found defective in sanitation	...	...	...	...	9
Workshops and bakehouses found defective	...	...	...	...	16



Number of slaughter houses, cowsheds, milkshops, bakehouses and workshops registered in the district :—

Slaughter houses.	Cowsheds.	Milkshops and Purveyors.	Bakehouses.	Workshops.	Domestic Workshops.	Outworkers.
3	6	20	11	34	12	7

The slaughter houses within the district have been frequently visited, and I am pleased to say Slaughter houses that a great improvement has been made and maintained in their general cleanliness.

I am at present negotiating with the owners of one which is a wood building, with a view to having the same rebuilt.

Inspections of cowsheds have been frequent, and when necessary, notices have been served Cowsheds. for cleansing and amendments.

It is extremely gratifying to note that a vast improvement in the sanitary condition of these places has been made.

In one instance, dilapidated wood cowsheds (accommodating 20 cows), the height of which was only 5ft. 6ins., have been replaced by a modern building, no expense having been spared to secure efficiency for the health of the cattle, storage of milk and cleansing of milk vessels.

Two cowsheds have had the drains reconstructed in accordance with your regulations, defective bell traps being removed from inside and open channels substituted, discharging over trapped gulleys in the open air ; the lighting and ventilation have also been improved.

The water from a well supplying one dairy farm was analysed and found to be polluted, and a supply of water has now been provided from the Company's mains to the cattle troughs, cowsheds and dairy.

One insanitary cowshed has been closed after the service of a statutory notice.
Such improvements must necessarily tend towards securing a pure milk supply for the district.
I find however, it is a difficult matter to instil into the mind of the cow-keeper the great importance of cleanliness during milking operations. Slight improvement has taken place in this direction and I hope by persistence to obtain far more satisfactory results.

Dairies and milkshops have been systematically inspected, and here improvements have taken place by the provision of suitable accommodation for storing milk and cleansing milk vessels. Dairies and Milkshops.

There is however, room for further improvement, especially with regard to milkshops, the milk in many cases being exposed for sale in open vessels, rendering it liable to contamination by flies, dust, etc.

One new dairy has been erected during the year and the names of four dairymen entered in the register.

Frequent inspections have been made of bakehouses, and the necessary notices have been served for the abatement of nuisances and limewashing. Bakehouses.

At the commencement of the year there were two underground bakehouses within the district, the occupiers of which were notified that certificates of suitability would not be granted.

Both have now been closed, one having been replaced by a new bakehouse, constructed on modern principles.

Three samples of water were taken from wells supplying bakehouses with water, one being condemned, and the Company's water is now laid on.

Twelve workshops have been registered during the year and have been duly inspected ; five have been struck off, having ceased to exist, making a total of 34 workshops at present on the register, in which the following trades are carried on :— Workshops.

Tailors	4	Carriage builders and wheelwrights	2
Dressmakers	5	Blacksmiths	5
Milliners	2	Builders and joiners	3
Boot repairs	2	Bottle-washing and beer bottling	1
Laundries	4	Cabinet making	1
Cycle Repairs	5		

There are seven outworkers upon the register, against 35 last year, the large decrease being accounted for by the refusal of the Secretary to the Army Needlework Association to supply names of persons employed by the Association to make army shirts; he claiming exemption from the operation of the Factory and Workshops' Act, by reason of the place from which the work is given out not being a workshop.

This action is to be regretted, as it enabled me to apprise the Association of cases of infectious disease in the homes of persons so employed, and possibly prevent the spread of infection.

One notification of outworkers has been sent to another district.

There are 12 domestic workshops registered, being an increase of four from last year; the work carried on is principally dressmaking and boot and shoe repairs.

Several small laundries exist within the district, where only two persons not being members of the family owning the laundry are employed, these places are exempt from the supervision imposed upon other laundries.

The following is a summary of work carried out in connection with workshops:—

Defects Found.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.		Reported to H. M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.		
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	3	3		
Want of ventilation	2	2		
Overcrowding	0	0		
Want of drainage of floors	2	1		
Other nuisances	1	1		
Sanitary Accommodations { Insufficient				
{ Unsuitable or defective	9	9		
{ Not separate for the sexes	1	1		
Offences under the Factory and Workshops' Act :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (Sec. 101)	2	2		
Breach of special sanitary requirements	4	4		
Total ..	24	23		

One factory laundry which was previously a great nuisance owing to the waste water having to be disposed of upon adjoining land, has now been drained to the sewer, and properly constructed water closets have replaced the privy pails.

Two dilapidated workshops have been demolished.

His Majesty's Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the district has been notified in all cases where protected persons were found to be employed without having a copy of the abstract affixed.

The number of dwelling houses reported to be unfit for habitation during the year was 18, situated as follows:—

Lynchford Road	2
Chapel Street	4
Somerset Road	1
Victoria Road	1
Queen's Road and Gravel Road	10

Housing of the Working Classes' Act.

The feature common to all these houses was dampness and structural dilapidations. Three were old wood buildings with tarred felt roofs, and were quite incapable of being rendered fit for habitation. Two of these have been demolished and three new shops and dwelling houses erected on the site.

Five have been put in a sanitary condition, this having been accomplished by providing damp-proof courses to the external and partition walls, removing decayed flooring and joists, excavating soil and placing cement concrete under the floors, providing a cavity for ventilation, relaying drains and substituting water closets for privies. Minor defects, such as roofs, spouts, windows and paving have been remedied.

Ten are at present undergoing repairs ; frequent inspections have been made and I have drawn the owners' attention to the unsatisfactory way in which the work is being carried out.

Of the above, 11 houses were closed by orders from the Magistrates under the Housing of the Working Classes' Act, 1890 ; one was demolished after the service of the summons, which was withdrawn on payment of costs by the owner. Six were closed voluntarily and remained so until necessary repairs were carried out.

One hundred and sixty-nine houses have been connected to the mains of the Frimley and Farnborough Water Company during the year, 69 being new houses ; 100 were houses which previously obtained their water supply from wells. Water supply.

Twenty-six samples of water have been taken from private wells during the year, 15 of which were condemned as unfit for domestic use, the number of houses affected being 29. Private wells.

In one case it was found necessary to take legal proceedings, when a closing order was obtained.

Two wells were cleansed and repaired and the defective coverings renewed.

Thirty-eight wells supplying 71 houses with water have been closed without analysis, the owners preferring to connect to the mains rather than go to the necessary expense of providing lift pumps and storage tanks for flushing newly erected water closets.

One sample was taken from a well intended to supply a new house on the Farnborough Park Estate and was condemned. The Water Company have now laid their mains to supply this house.

Seventeen cases of infectious disease were notified during the year from the civil population, six of these being erysipelas. Each case was immediately visited. It was found necessary to remove five cases to the Sanatorium, by reason of no means of isolation being in existence in the house where the disease occurred. Infectious Disease

Twelve cases were isolated at home ; frequent visits have been made and disinfectants liberally supplied.

Printed instructions, suitably made for hanging in the sick room, have also been issued, giving all particulars as to the precautions to be taken in home nursed cases.

Eleven rooms and their contents have been disinfected after infectious disease, the formalin spray and lamp being used for this purpose. In each case the walls and ceilings have been stripped, and the rooms thoroughly cleansed and whitewashed. Disinfection.

One room has been disinfected after death from phthisis.

During the year, Bye-laws have been submitted to and sanctioned by the Local Government Board, imposing upon the occupiers of premises the duty of cleaning Earth Closets, Privies and Cesspools in that portion of the district which is included between the south boundary and an imaginary line drawn due east and west, through the most northern point of the junction of Ship Lane and the Farnborough Main Road to the eastern and western boundaries of the district. Scavenging.

Previous to the 6th day of August, 1904, the cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies and Cesspools was carried out by the direct employment of labour and the Council's own horses and vehicles.

The following list shows the number of cesspools and privies existing within the district as compared with last year.

Existing.	Ending Dec., 1903	Ending Dec., 1904	Cesspools abolished during year ending Dec., 1904	Privies abolished during year ending Dec., 1904	Water Closets substituted
Cesspools	62	12	50		
Privies	151	11		140	140

The number of houses affected by the abolition of Privies and Cesspools is 215 ; at the majority of which the drains have been entirely reconstructed. The hydraulic test has been applied to all new drains, and other precautions taken to ensure effectual drainage.

Where necessary, dilapidated wood privy buildings have been replaced by brick buildings constructed in accordance with your bye-laws.

All privies abolished have been substituted by water closets with wash down pans and traps and suitable flushing apparatus connected thereto.

The removal of house refuse has been carried out during the year as before, by the direct employment of labour and the Council's own horses and vehicles. Calls are made at each house in the district weekly. House Refuse.

One thousand one hundred and eighty-four loads of ashes have been collected and removed to suitable tips ; 42 galvanized iron dust tins have been provided.

Frequent and systematic inspections have been made of premises where food is exposed for sale or in preparation for sale for the food of man. No seizures were made but several persons were cautioned as to foodstuffs being tainted, and informed that on any future occasion seizure would be made. Food Inspection.

I was requested on one occasion to inspect the carcasses of three pigs which had been killed on private premises, and found the same diseased and unfit for food. I reported the matter to the Medical Officer of Health who confirmed my opinion and the carcasses were destroyed.

The following were similarly treated :—One cwt. of onions, half-bushel of plums, and about ten lbs. of mutton.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

Legal Proceedings.

Number of Summonses	Particulars	Remarks
3	Twelve Houses certified by M.O.H. to be in such a state as to be unfit for habitation.	Two Closing Orders obtained for 11 houses with Costs against the owners. One House demolished before date on which summons was returnable, the owner paying costs.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

1	Polluted Well Water.	Order made to close the Well, costs against the owner.
1	Defective Cesspool and Drainage.	Order made for the work to be completed within 14 days, owners to pay costs.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Council for the assistance they have given me in my endeavour to improve the sanitary condition of the district.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
PAGE W. BELLAMY,
Assoc. R.S. Institute.

